

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 (Cancelled).

31. (Currently amended) A system for pulmonary delivery to a mammal of an inhalable aerosol mist of a glycosaminoglycan in an amount effective to coat elastic fibers of the lung to protect the fibers from injury by an elastase, comprising:

a mixture comprising a ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan having a molecular weight of between about 50,000 and 1.5×10^6 Daltons at a concentration of less than about 5.0 mg/ml (w/v) of ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan, and a breathable fluorocarbon propellant;

a canister adapted to contain said mixture under pressure;

a valve connected to said canister for regulating delivery of said mixture; and

a nozzle interconnected with said valve for transforming said mixture under pressure into ~~an~~ the inhalable aerosol mist when said valve is actuated.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan in said aerosol mist has a median mass distribution size of between about 0.5 to about 10 microns.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the ~~said~~ mixture further comprises a drug.

Claims 34-36 (Cancelled).

Claims 37. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 33 wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of terbutaline, albuterol (salbutamol) sulfate, ephedrine sulfate, ephedrine bitartrate, isoetharine hydrochloride, isoetharine mesylate, isoproteranol hydrochloride, isoproteranol sulfate, metaproteranol sulfate, terbutaline sulfate, procaterol, bitolterol mesylate, atropine methyl nitrate, cromolyn sodium, propranolol, fluroisolide, ibuprofen, gentamycin, tobermycin, pentamidine, penicillin, theophylline, bleomycin, etoposide, captopril, n-acetyl cysteine, verapamil, calcitonin, atriopentin, α -1 antitrypsin (protease inhibitor), interferon, vasopressin, insulin, interleukin-2, superoxide dismutase, tissue plasminogen activator (TPA), plasma factor 8, epidermal growth factor, tumor necrosis factor, heparin, lung surfactant protein, and lipocortin.

38. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 31 wherein the ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan of the mixture is chemically modified.

39. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 38 wherein the ~~solution~~ mixture further comprises a drug.

40. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 39 wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of prostaglandins, amphotericin B, progesterone, isosorbide dinitrate, testosterone, nitroglycerin, estradiol, doxorubicin, beclomethasone and esters thereof, vitamin E, cortisone, dexamethasone and esters thereof, 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine/1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylglycerol (DPPC/DPPG) phospholipids, and betamethasone valerate.

41. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 31 wherein a drug is conjugated to the ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan.

42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 42 31 wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate A, chondroitin sulfate B, chondroitin sulfate C, heparan sulfate and heparin.

44. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 31 wherein the ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan is dextran.

45. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 31 wherein the molecular weight of the ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan is less than about 587,000 Daltons.

46. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 45 wherein the molecular weight of the ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan is less than about 220,000 Daltons.

47. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 46 wherein the molecular weight of the ~~polysaccharide~~ glycosaminoglycan is less than about 150,000 Daltons.

48. (New) A system according to claim 43 wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate A, chondroitin sulfate C, and heparan sulfate.